U2
Part 1 of 2

ROCK 'N' ROLL

UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.

REVOLUTIONARY COMICS

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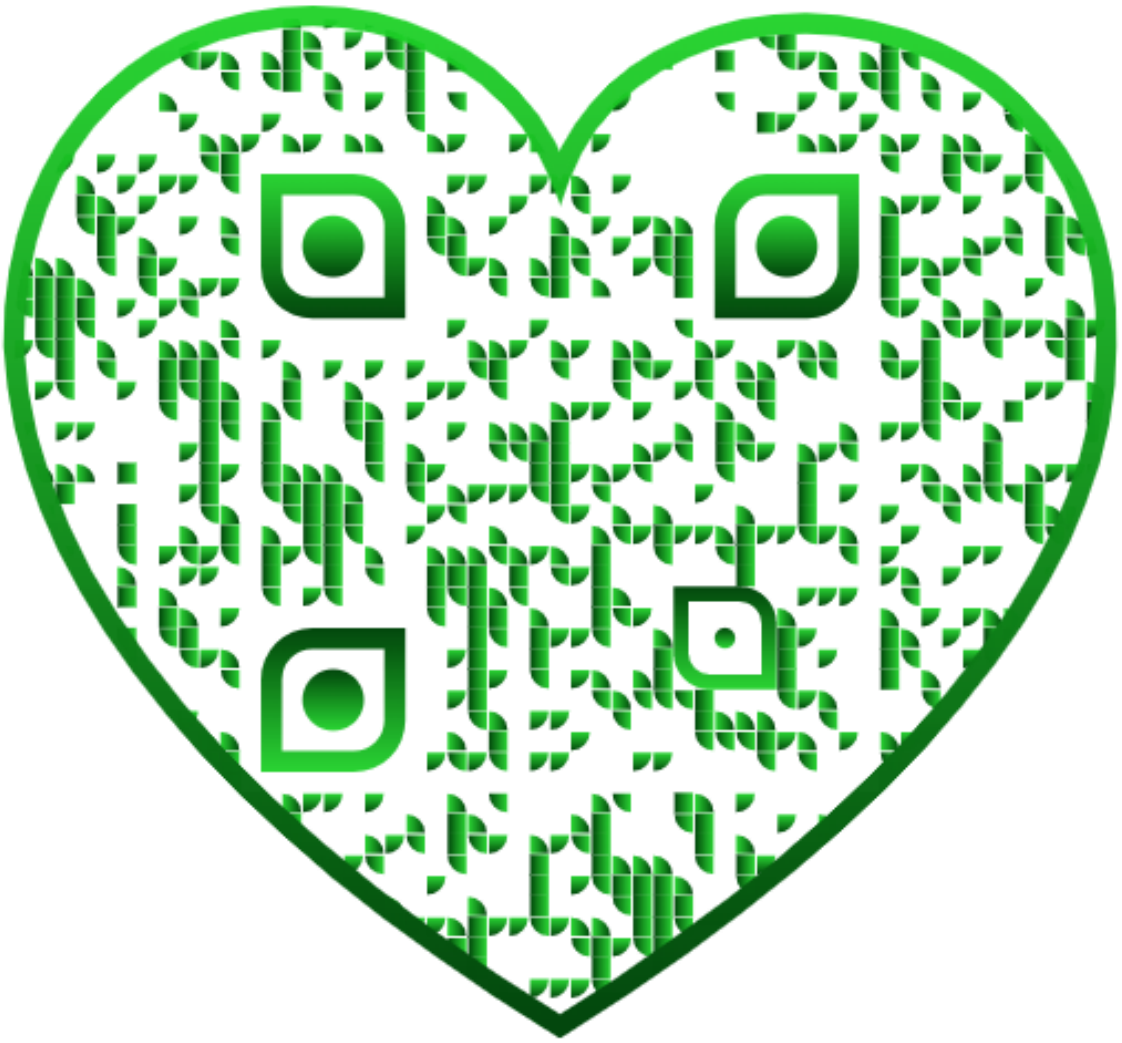

Fourteen Great Moments in Rock 'N' Roll

by Jay Allen Sanford

MY CAREER AS A CONCERT-GOER spans literally hundreds of shows and bands, including nearly all the greats and not-so-greats (and downright crappy). I wasn't at the "greatest concerts" of all time like Woodstock or Monterey, so I can't relate, or take someone's word that they were, in fact, "the greatest."

Being there is what counts. Being in the multitudinous audience, deafened, jostled, lifted, and applauding wildly. At the truly great shows, your nerves alight with orgasmic ecstacy, eyes glazing over as a tingling sensation wriggles up the base of your dancing spine. Great moments in rock.

Hey, so you weren't there (probably). I can dig it. My own great moments are personal, biased, and introspective. They are "transcendental moments," filling me with that aforementioned sensation, as well as having historical importance. Such "moments" have occurred all over the nation, sometimes lasting an entire show (Pink Floyd opening "The Wall" in L.A. 2/7/80), sometimes only a single song (Electric Light Orchestra's hyper-kinetic laser fest at Hartford, CT 4/7/77). What follows are some of my personal faves, the most estimable examples. Hope my descriptions bring you a bit of that rock 'n' roll high!

14) SPIRIT; 8/6/84; Rodeo Club, San Diego: The short-lived reunion of the entire original band, with Randy California, Jay Ferguson, Ed Cassidy, Mark Andes and John Locke. The whole show was a retro-blast, but they've never performed with this lineup since. The "moment": "Nothing To Hide."

13) 30TH ANNUAL ROCK AND ROLL ALL STAR JAM (10/25/85); Irvine Meadows, CA: Another evening of super jams, with Bo Diddly, John Lodge, Kenny Jones, Carmine Appice, Bill Champlin, John Mayall, John Hammond, Chuck Negron, Bobby Keyes, Carl Wilson, Ronnie Lane, Ron Wood, Mick Fleetwood and Hendrix drummer Mitch Mitchell. This was supposed to be a Chuck Berry show, but Chuck was pissed off that night. He only showed up for the last few minutes, and then refused to play guitar! The All Stars played the Chuck Berry Medley without him, Chicago's Bill Champlin lamely singing, though he hardly knew the lyrics. Man, these cats could JAM! The "moment": Watching Ron Wood try to force a guitar around Chuck's neck, fail, then shake his fist and toss the guitar in disgust. The cameras, which had been filming for an intended special on Berry, had long since shut down. Ron and Chuck stormed off and the show wrapped up. It was perhaps the best onstage fight I've seen since Neil Young and Stephen Stills verbally slugged it out onstage at Colt Park in Hartford, CT. (7/11/76), leaving Neil all alone to sing "Suite Judy Blue Eyes" (actually, that might have been funnier than The Turtles or Monty Python).

12) LED ZEPPELIN (6/13/77); Madison Square Garden, NY: The last American show with all four members. The rest of the tour was canceled when Robert Plant's son died. Then, Bonham's death precluded a future tour. On this night, the boys were blotto . . . completely smashed. During "Stairway to Heaven," as the whole audience sang along, Plant forgot the words! He sang one verse twice and skipped two others. Page fell asleep on a chair behind an amp during the drummer showcase and dropped his guitar with a loud crash when awakened for a belated solo. Hey, folks, it's only rock and roll. They magically pulled it together for sublime versions of "Moby Dick" and "Black Dog."

11) BLUE OYSTER CULT and RUSH (1/14/78); New Haven Coliseum, CT: "Who the hell is Rush?" I wondered on the way in. They had about fifteen feet of cleared stage to perform on when the 3-piece unit bounded out and played "2112" in its glorious entirety, about an hour's worth. My friends had to scrape my melted body from the metal chair. I was awestruck. The "moment" ended with B.O.C.'s set, though their lasers were okay.

10) EMERSON, LAKE AND PALMER (7/10/77); Hartford Civic Center, CT: An hour before showtime, 40 miles away, the car breaks down. The five of us split up and dusted off our thumbs. I lost the toss and was the last in line (farthest up the freeway) of frantic hitchhikers. Still, I miraculously found myself running through the Civic Center's doors at the very second the lights went down and Lake sang "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends . . ." Never mind that the 50-piece orchestra had been fired two gigs previously (lack of funds). It was a solid two-hour blast.

9) ELTON JOHN (4th of July, 1976); Shaefer Stadium, Foxboro, MA: Wotta spectacle! A million lights, a dozen costume changes, a glitter drenched stage and a packed, hysterical stadium. It was an all-day multi-band show (John Miles, of the Jimmy Page Band and Alan Parsons Project, was the best of the supporting acts).

(continued on page 31)

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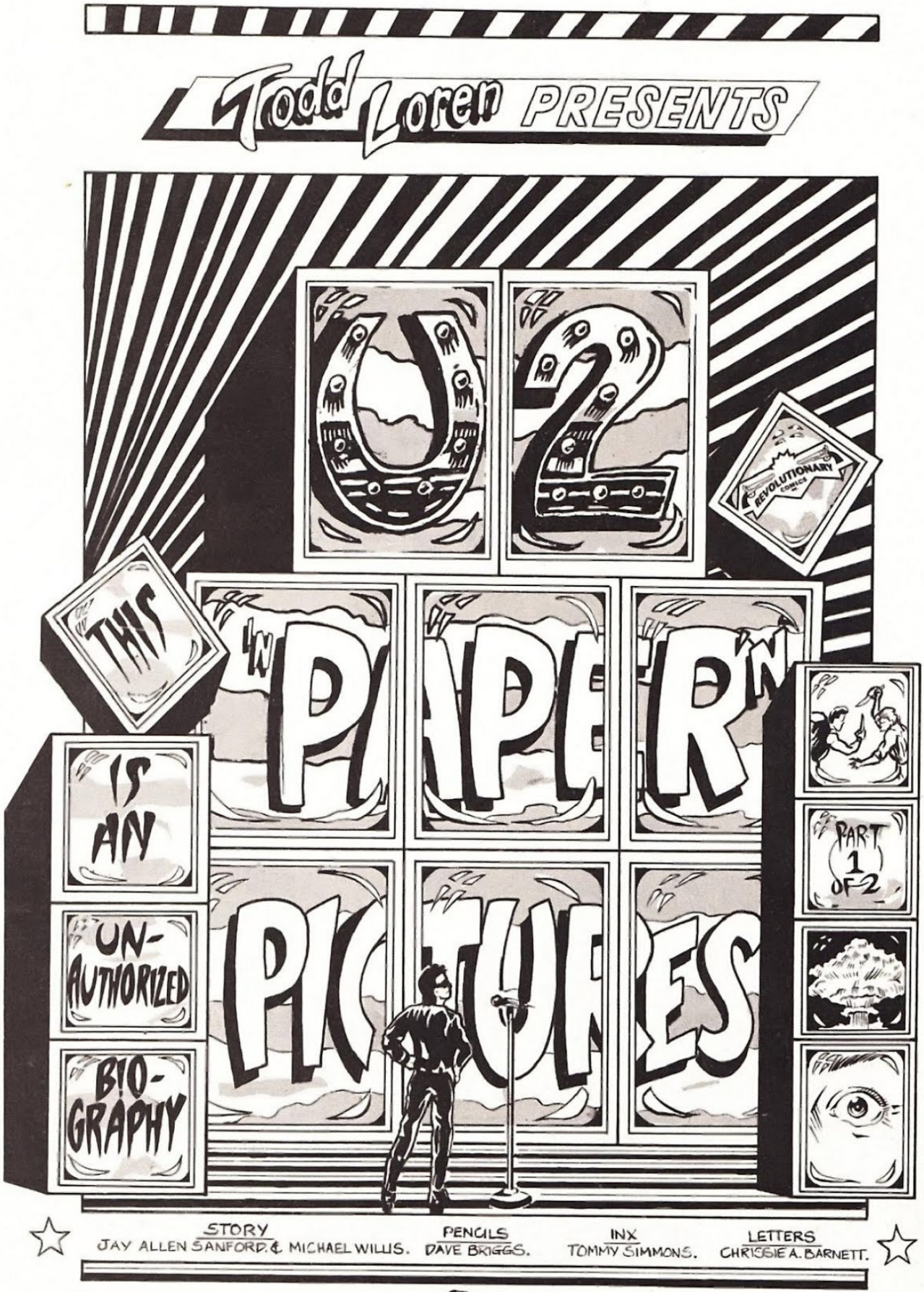
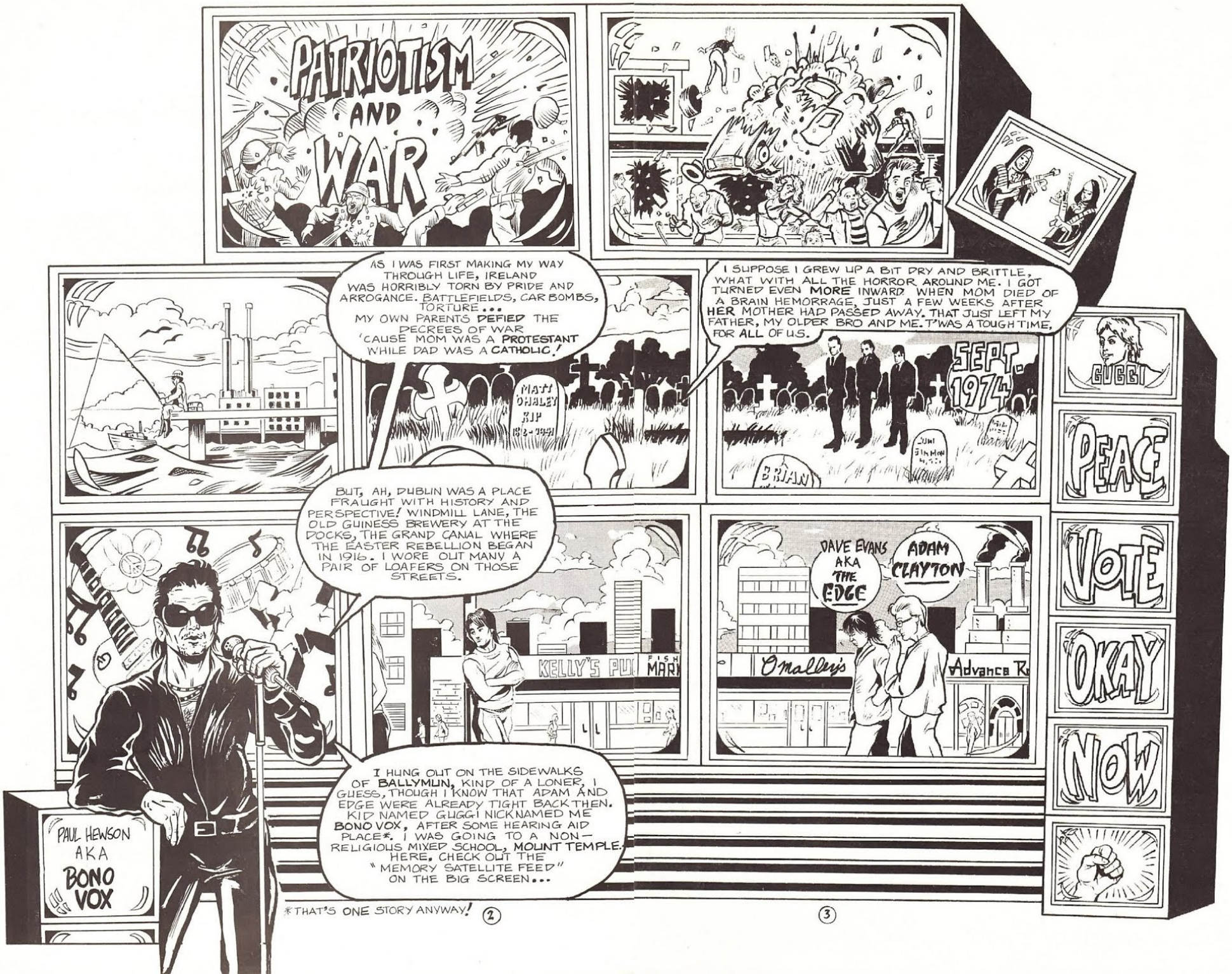
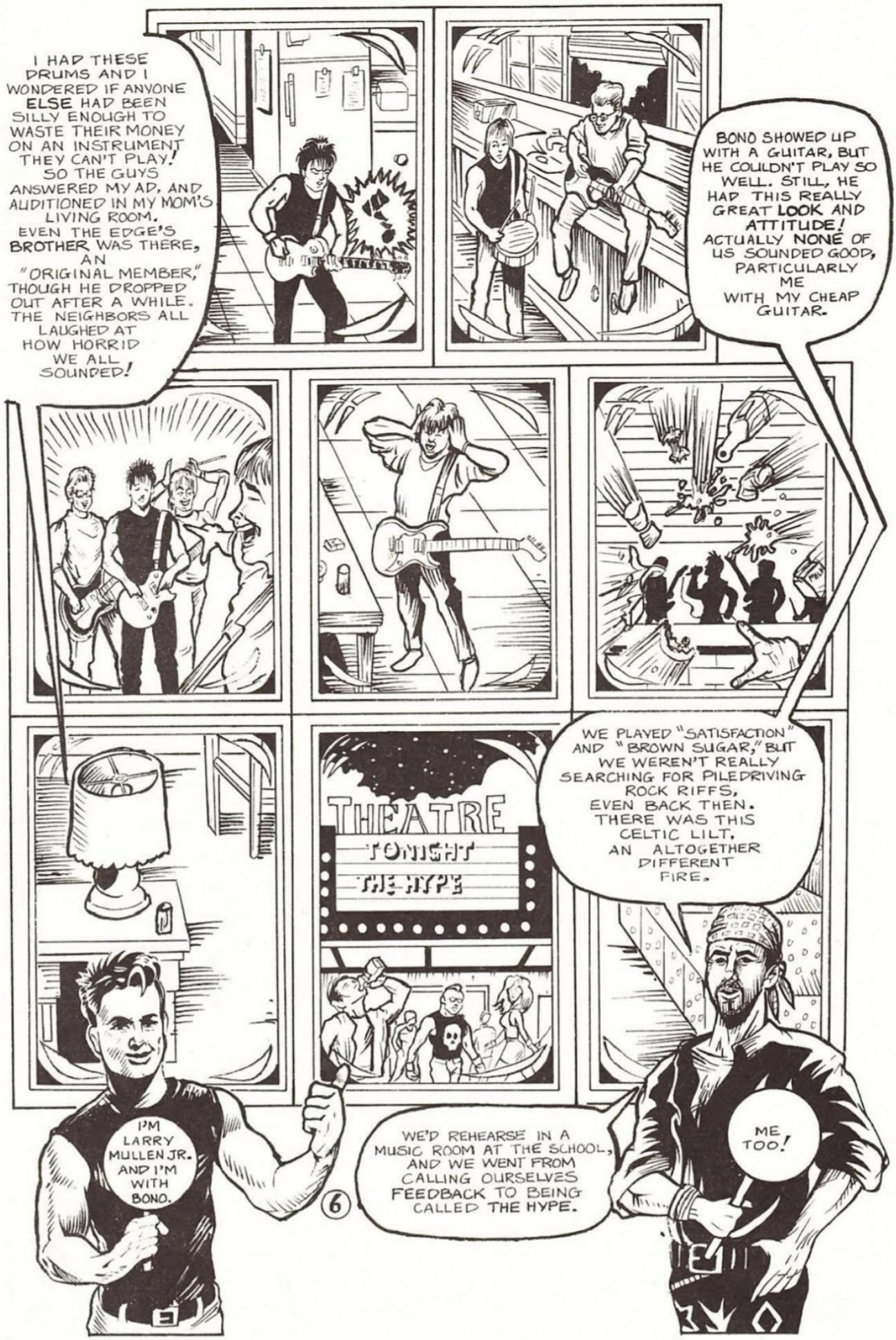

Todd Loren PRESENTS
U2
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
THIS
IS AN
UN-
AUTHORIZED
BIO-
GRAPHY
IN PAPER'N
PICTURES
PART 1 OF 2
STORY
JAY ALLEN SANFORD & MICHAEL WILLIS.
PENCILS
DAVE BRIGGS.
INX
TOMMY SIMMONS.
LETTERS
CHRISSIE A. BARNETT.


PATRIOTISM AND WAR
AS I WAS FIRST MAKING MY WAY THROUGH LIFE, IRELAND WAS HORRIBLY TORN BY PRIDE AND ARROGANCE. BATTLEFIELDS, CAR BOMBS, TORTURE...
MY OWN PARENTS DEFIED THE DECREES OF WAR 'CAUSE MOM WAS A PROTESTANT WHILE DAD WAS A CATHOLIC!
MATT O'HALEY R.I.P
I SUPPOSE I GREW UP A BIT DRY AND BRITTLE, WHAT WITH ALL THE HORROR AROUND ME. I GOT TURNED EVEN MORE INWARD WHEN MOM DIED OF A BRAIN HEMORRAGE, JUST A FEW WEEKS AFTER HER MOTHER HAD PASSED AWAY. THAT JUST LEFT MY FATHER, MY OLDER BRO AND ME. T'WAS A TOUGH TIME, FOR ALL OF U.S.
SEPT. 1974
BRIAN
GUGGI
PEACE
VOTE
OKAY
NOW
BUT, AH, DUBLIN WAS A PLACE FRAUGHT WITH HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVE! WINDMILL LANE, THE OLD GUINESS BREWERY AT THE DOCKS, THE GRAND CANAL WHERE THE EASTER REBELLION BEGAN IN 1916. I WORE OUT MANY A PAIR OF LOAFERS ON THOSE STREETS.
KELLY'S PU
FISH MAR
DAVE EVANS AKA THE EDGE
ADAM CLAYTON
O'malley's
Advance R
I HUNG OUT ON THE SIDEWALKS OF BALLYMUN, KIND OF A LONER, I GUESS, THOUGH I KNOW THAT ADAM AND EDGE WERE ALREADY TIGHT BACK THEN. KID NAMED GUGGI NICKNAMED ME BONO VOX, AFTER SOME HEARING AID PLACE*. I WAS GOING TO A NON-RELIGIOUS MIXED SCHOOL, MOUNT TEMPLE. HERE. CHECK OUT THE "MEMORY SATELLITE FEED" ON THE BIG SCREEN...
PAUL HEWSON AKA BONO VOX
*THAT'S ONE STORY ANYWAY!
2
3

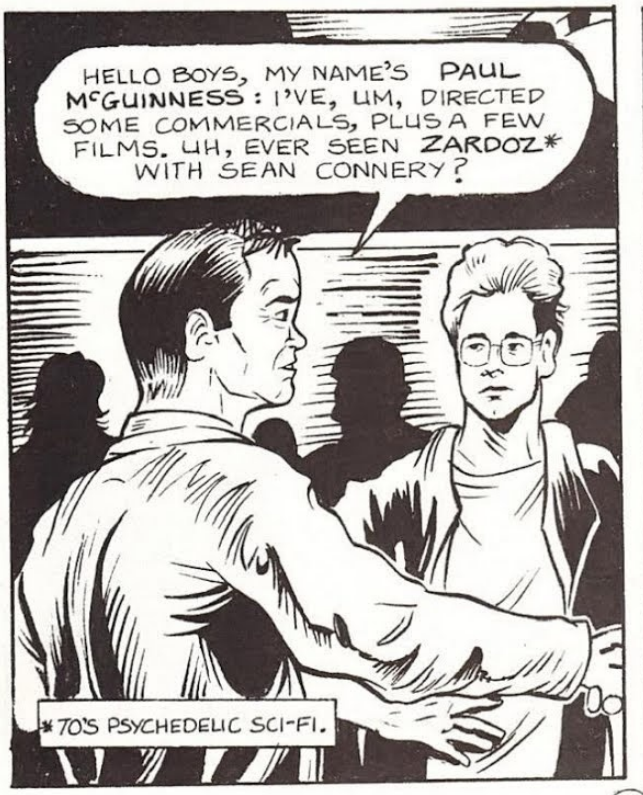
AND TO THINK YOU WERE SCARED TO DITCH SCHOOL TODAY, ADAM!
YEAH, WELL, I GOT A TEST, DON'T I?
LED ZEPPELIN
EDGE
ADAM
SEX PISTOLS LIVE
ROCK A-B
ROCK C-E
STILL, I GUESS I'D MUCH RATHER BE DOING SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE... LIKE TAKING THESE HOME FOR A SPIN!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU PAY FOR 'EM THIS TIME!
PATTI SMITH
TELEVISION
SO, YOU STILL TRYING TO LEARN THE GUITAR, DAVE?
AHHH, I JUST MESS AROUND A BIT NOW AND THEN. IT'S BETTER THAN STUDYING THE PIANO, LIKE I HAD TO DO BACK WHEN I WAS TWELVE. HOW'S YOUR BASS PLAYING? STILL MESSING AROUND WITH THE MAX QUAD BAND?
HELP WANTED
HERE NOW, WHAT'S THIS, THEN? HAVE YOU SEEN THIS POSTING ON THE SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD?
THIS FELLA'S LOOKING TO PUT TOGETHER A BAND... NAH, IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOME SCHOOL RELATED THING. BEST TO IGNORE IT, LAD.
WELL, I'M STILL PRETTY CLUMSY WITH IT, BUT MY FOLKS KEEP YELLING AT ME TO TURN IT DOWN SO I MUST BE PLAYING ROCK AND ROLL!
THAT ALONE MAKES YOU EVERYONE'S ENVY!
HA HA! YOU MAY PLAY NONE TOO WELL, BUT AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT THE NICEST, MOST EXPENSIVE BASS IN TOWN!
LOST
LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON SOME OF THE OTHER CHANNELS...
CLICK!

BONO
I'LL BET I'M THE FIRST ONE AT MOUNT TEMPLE TO GET UP THE NERVE TO GO TO SCHOOL IN FULL PUNK REGALIA!
HAIR SPRAY
AND THESE SHOES!
THEY'RE POINTY ENOUGH TO PLAY SOCCER WITH A BB! THIS GEAR IS TERRIFIC!
MAN, YOU'RE GONNA GET SOME FLACK FOR THAT OUTFIT!
GOOD! THAT'S WHY I'M WEARING IT! THERE'S NOTHING AS EXCITING AS JUST BEING NOTICED SOMETIMES! DUBLIN NEEDS THE KIND OF COLOR THAT PUNK ROCK PROVIDES...
YEAH, BUT YOU TAKE IT A LITTLE FAR. EVEN THE OTHER GUYS AT THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ARE TALKING... ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU GOT ACCUSED OF STARTING THAT FIRE AT SCHOOL!
HMMM, WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE?
"DOES ANYONE WANT TO START A ROCK BAND?" NOW THERE'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT!
I WONDER IF THIS GUY'D BE INTERESTED IN DOING MUSIC THAT MIXES GENRES... CROSSING, SAY, VAN MORRISON WITH LOU REED?


I HAD THESE DRUMS AND I WONDERED IF ANYONE ELSE HAD BEEN SILLY ENOUGH TO WASTE THEIR MONEY ON AN INSTRUMENT THEY CAN'T PLAY! SO THE GUYS ANSWERED MY AD, AND AUDITIONED IN MY MOM'S LIVING ROOM. EVEN THE EDGE'S BROTHER WAS THERE, AN "ORIGINAL MEMBER," THOUGH HE DROPPED OUT AFTER A WHILE. THE NEIGHBORS ALL LAUGHED AT HOW HORRID WE ALL SOUNDED!
BONO SHOWED UP WITH A GUITAR, BUT HE COULDN'T PLAY SO WELL. STILL, HE HAD THIS REALLY GREAT LOOK AND ATTITUDE! ACTUALLY NONE OF US SOUNDED GOOD, PARTICULARLY ME WITH MY CHEAP GUITAR.
THEATRE
TONIGHT
THE HYPE
WE PLAYED "SATISFACTION" AND "BROWN SUGAR," BUT WE WEREN'T REALLY SEARCHING FOR PILEDRIVING ROCK RIFFS, EVEN BACK THEN. THERE WAS THIS CELTIC LILT, AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT FIRE.
I'M LARRY MULLEN JR. AND I'M WITH BONO.
WE'D REHEARSE IN A MUSIC ROOM AT THE SCHOOL, AND WE WENT FROM CALLING OURSELVES FEEDBACK TO BEING CALLED THE HYPE.
ME TOO!
6

YEAH, EVEN BACK THEN THEY GAVE ME A HARD TIME! IT KEPT MY HEAD FROM GETTIN' TOO BIG, BEIN' THE SINGER AND FOCAL POINT AND ALL.
I WROTE "OUT OF CONTROL" ON MY 18TH BIRTHDAY.
MAN, THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OUR LIVES, BIRTH AND DEATH, ARE OUT OF OUR HANDS, OUT OF OUR CONTROL!
MAY
1978
I WAS SO BLOODY SERIOUS ALL THE TIME!

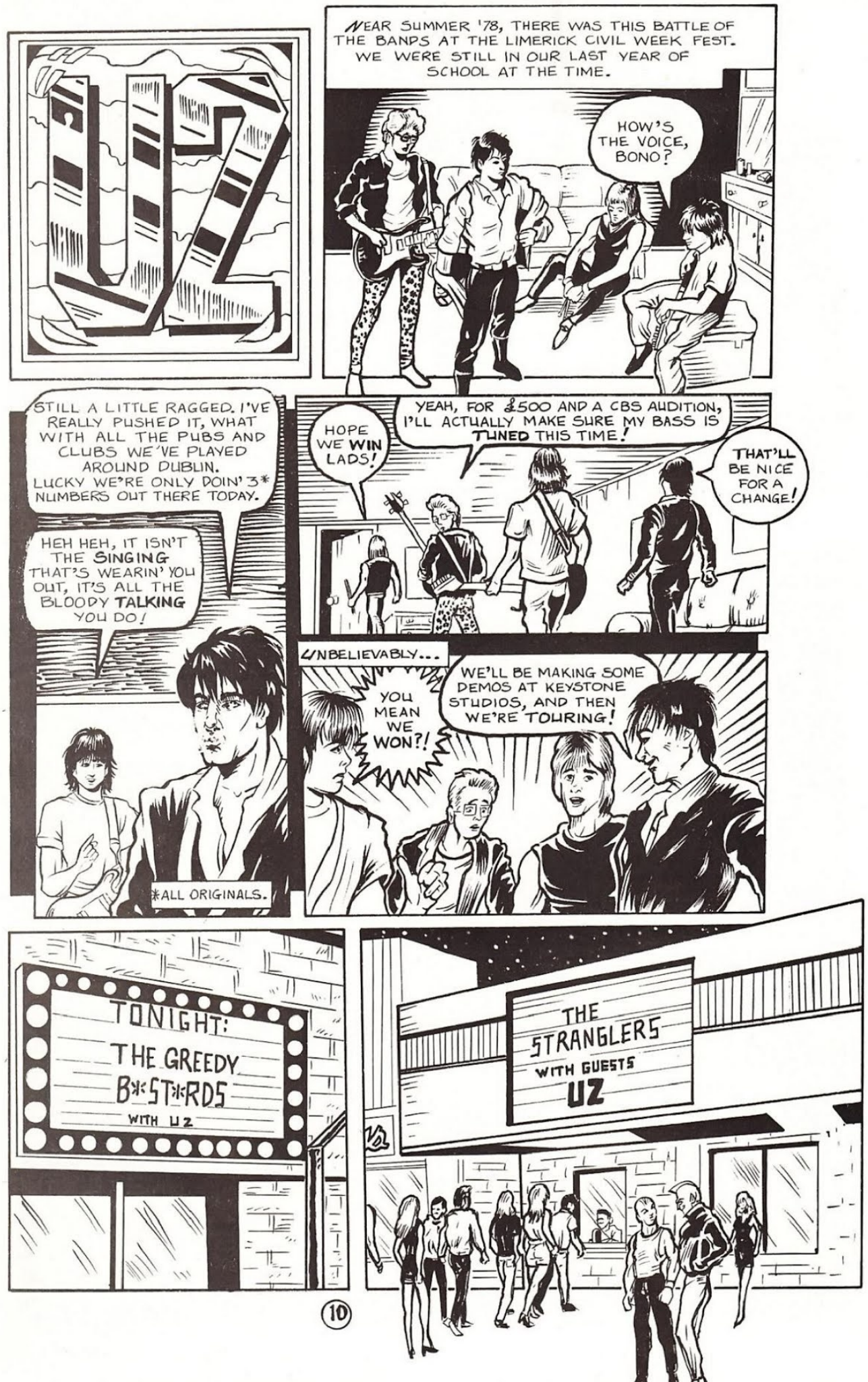
GIG 1977
HMMM, THESE BOYS REALLY GO AT IT!


HELLO BOYS, MY NAME'S PAUL McGUINNESS: I'VE, UM, DIRECTED SOME COMMERCIALS, PLUS A FEW FILMS. UH, EVER SEEN ZARDOZ* WITH SEAN CONNERY?
*70'S PSYCHEDELIC SCI-FI.

NOPE.

WE MANAGED TO TALK BONO INTO PUTTING DOWN THE GUITAR AND BEING "JUST THE SINGER." AND EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE MUSIC, WE FOUND THAT WE ALL GOT ALONG AND ENJOYED HANGING ABOUT WITH EACH OTHER.
SO HOW DID YOU GET A WEIRD NICKNAME LIKE "THE EDGE?"
ACTUALLY I S'PPOSE IT'S THESE SHARP FEATURES OF MINE. AND YOU SHOULD TALK, "BONO VOX!"
NOW THEN, ARE YOU GONNA TELL US ABOUT THAT SPECTACULAR LADY YOU WERE TROTTING ABOUT WITH LAST NIGHT?
HUH? OH, THAT WAS ALISON.. ..NOW THERE'S A LOVELY NAME, EH? AND SHE'S QUITE A LASS.
SPEAKING OF NAMES, I WAS TALKING WITH STEVE* THE OTHER DAY. HE WAS FILLING ME IN ON THIS SPY PLANE AND SECRET SUB PROGRAM, U2... I LIKE THE WAY THAT SOUNDS, TWO SHARP SYLLABLES, A LETTER AND A NUMBER. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT AS A POTENTIAL BAND NAME?
HMMMM.
I DUNNO, ADAM. SOUNDS A LITTLE WARLIKE, Y'KNOW? A BIT HARD.
>MUTTER< THE THREE OF YOU AND YOUR BLOODY CHRISTIAN GOODWILL TRIP... YOU COME OFF LIKE TIMID MONKS SOMETIMES!
I'M OFF FOR A FEW PINTS WHILE YOU GUYS... CAN HAVE A BIBLE STUDY OR SOMETHING!
*STEVE RAPID, AKA AVERILL, OF THE RADIATORS.
SLAM!
TOUCHY TODAY, ISN'T HE?
THAT'S 'CAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A FOXY LASS LIKE ALISON ON HIS ARM, EVEN THOUGH HE'S THREE TIMES BETTER LOOKING THAN YOU!
>SIGH<

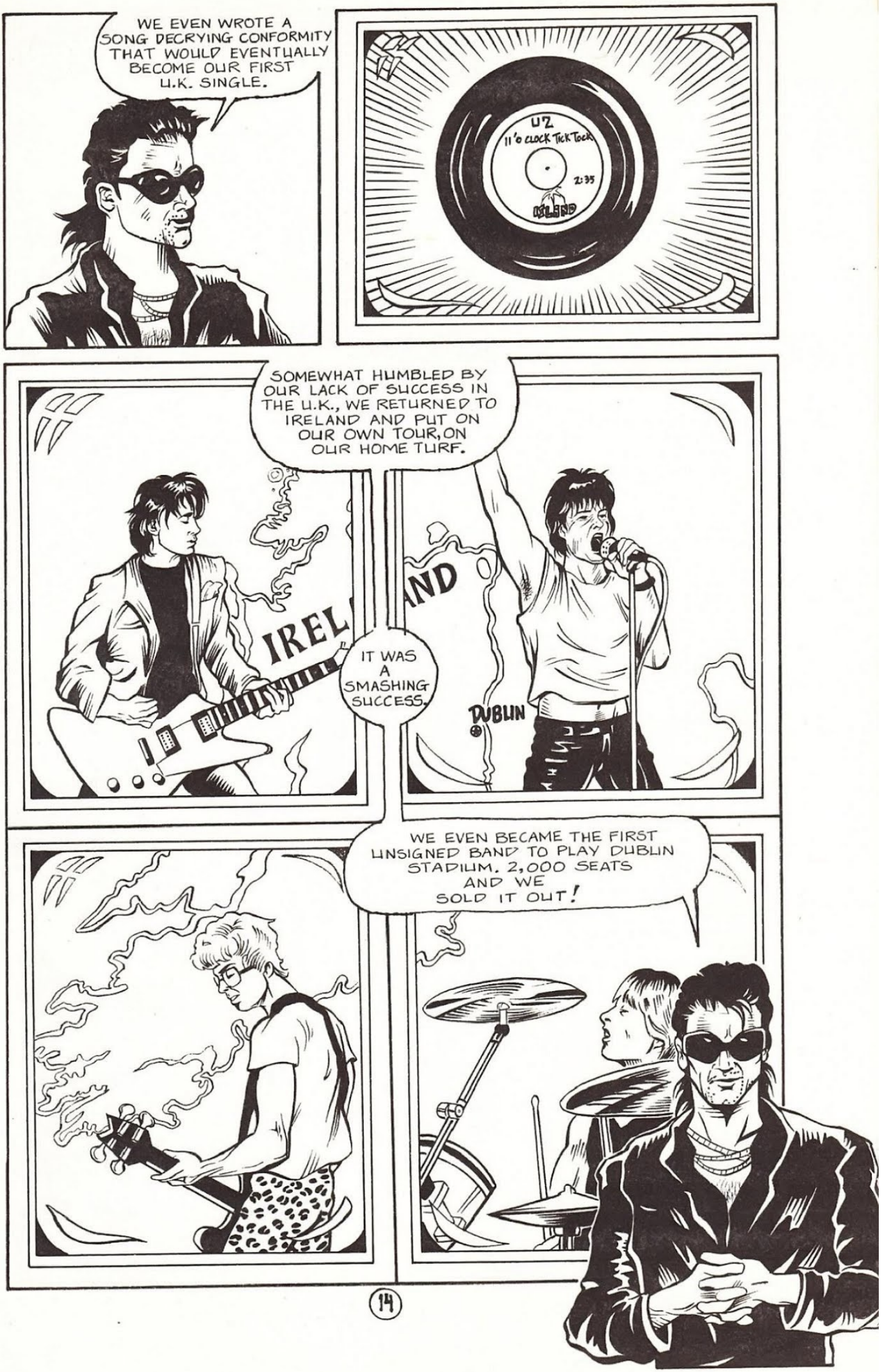
C'MON, YOU'VE HEARD OF THIS GUY. HE GOT SPUD A RECORD CONTRACT, AND THAT'S QUITE A FEAT!
I KNOW, BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW I KNOW!
WE GOT ALONG RIGHT FROM THE START. WE AGREED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, RADICAL THINGS, INSPIRATIONAL THINGS. LATER ON...
I MEAN, MUSIC HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF A GENERATION!
LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN AMERICA, WITH VIETNAM. MUSIC CHANGED ALL THE KIDS' ATTITUDE TOWARD WAR!
YES, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IT WAS THE SONGS EXCLUSIVELY?
THE LYRICS AT LEAST PROVIDED A SUITABLE CATALYST, A FORUM IN WHICH TO SPEAK OF ANTI-WAR SENTIMENTS... AND TO SPREAD THEM!
WE COULD USE A LITTLE MORE MUSIC LIKE THAT AROUND HERE!
IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE PAUL McGUINNESS BECAME OUR MANAGER. HAD TO HAVE BEEN OUR SMARTEST MOVE EVER, OUTSIDE OF TAKING ADAM'S ADVICE AND CHANGING OUR NAME TO...


U2
NEAR SUMMER '78, THERE WAS THIS BATTLE OF THE BANDS AT THE LIMERICK CIVIL WEEK FEST. WE WERE STILL IN OUR LAST YEAR OF SCHOOL AT THE TIME.
HOW'S THE VOICE, BONO?
STILL A LITTLE RAGGED. I'VE REALLY PUSHED IT, WHAT WITH ALL THE PUBS AND CLUBS WE'VE PLAYED AROUND DUBLIN. LUCKY WE'RE ONLY DOIN' 3* NUMBERS OUT THERE TODAY.
HEH HEH, IT ISN'T THE SINGING THAT'S WEARIN' YOU OUT, IT'S ALL THE BLOODY TALKING YOU DO!
*ALL ORIGINALS.
HOPE WE WIN LADS!
YEAH, FOR £500 AND A CBS AUDITION, I'LL ACTUALLY MAKE SURE MY BASS IS TUNED THIS TIME!
THAT'LL BE NICE FOR A CHANGE!
UNBELIEVABLY...
YOU MEAN WE WON?!
WE'LL BE MAKING SOME DEMOS AT KEYSTONE STUDIOS, AND THEN WE'RE TOURING!
TONIGHT: THE GREEDY B*ST*RDS WITH U2
THE STRANGLERS WITH GUESTS U2

WE STUNK UP THE STUDIO ON OUR FIRST VISIT, BUT WE GOT A DEMO OUT OF IT AND SOME RECORDING SAVVY. WE WENT TO A DIFFERENT PLACE TO DO SOME MORE TAPING.
CBS LIKED IT! WE GOT SIGNED TO THEIR IRISH LABEL. EVEN THOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE ENGLAND, DIDN'T PICK UP THE OPTION. WE DID A BIG RADIO BROADCAST IN IRELAND, AND THEN OUR FIRST E.P. CAME OUT!
OUR FAN BASE HAD ALREADY GOTTEN PRETTY BIG... ALONG WITH OUR HEADS! PARTICULARLY AFTER THE EP CLIMBED UP THE IRISH CHARTS LIKE A CREEPING CHARLEY!
U2
THREE
1. OUT OF CONTROL
2. STONES
3. BOY-GIRL
RECORD MIRROR
U2
WINDMILL LANE STUDIOS
CBS RECORDS IRELAND

OUR "TOUR" OF THE U.K. IN LATE '79 QUICKLY BURST THAT BUBBLE.
THE HOPE AND ANCHOR PUB PRESENTS
V2
[ROCK AND ROLL GROUP]
AND BEER AT HALF PRICE!
OUR NAME, BELIEVE IT OR NOT WAS MISSPELLED...
... AND ONLY 9 BLOKES SHOWED UP AT ONE GIG!
THEY WERE PROBABLY THERE FOR THE CHEAP BEER!
SOME OF OUR SHOWS WERE BETTER ATTENDED...
...BUT EVEN THEN, THE SEGREGATION WE SAW IN THE AUDIENCE WAS VERY DISTURBING TO US.

THERE WERE "PUNKS" AND "MODS" AND "SKINHEADS"... ALL OF THEM SEPARATED BY INVISIBLE BARRIERS.
BLACK FLAG
WE LOOKED DOWN FROM THE STAGE AND SAW ALL THESE STRANGE LITTLE CLIQUES... ALL THESE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN LITTLE BOXES.
I AM EVERYDAY PEOPLE
Sly Stone
I WAS SO SAD! AND OF COURSE, WE WEREN'T SHY ABOUT TELLING THEM SO!
WE'RE U2 FROM DUBLIN AND WE DON'T WANT TO BECOME PART OF ANY OF YOUR LITTLE SETS OF BOXES!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE PIGEONHOLED... WE HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO!

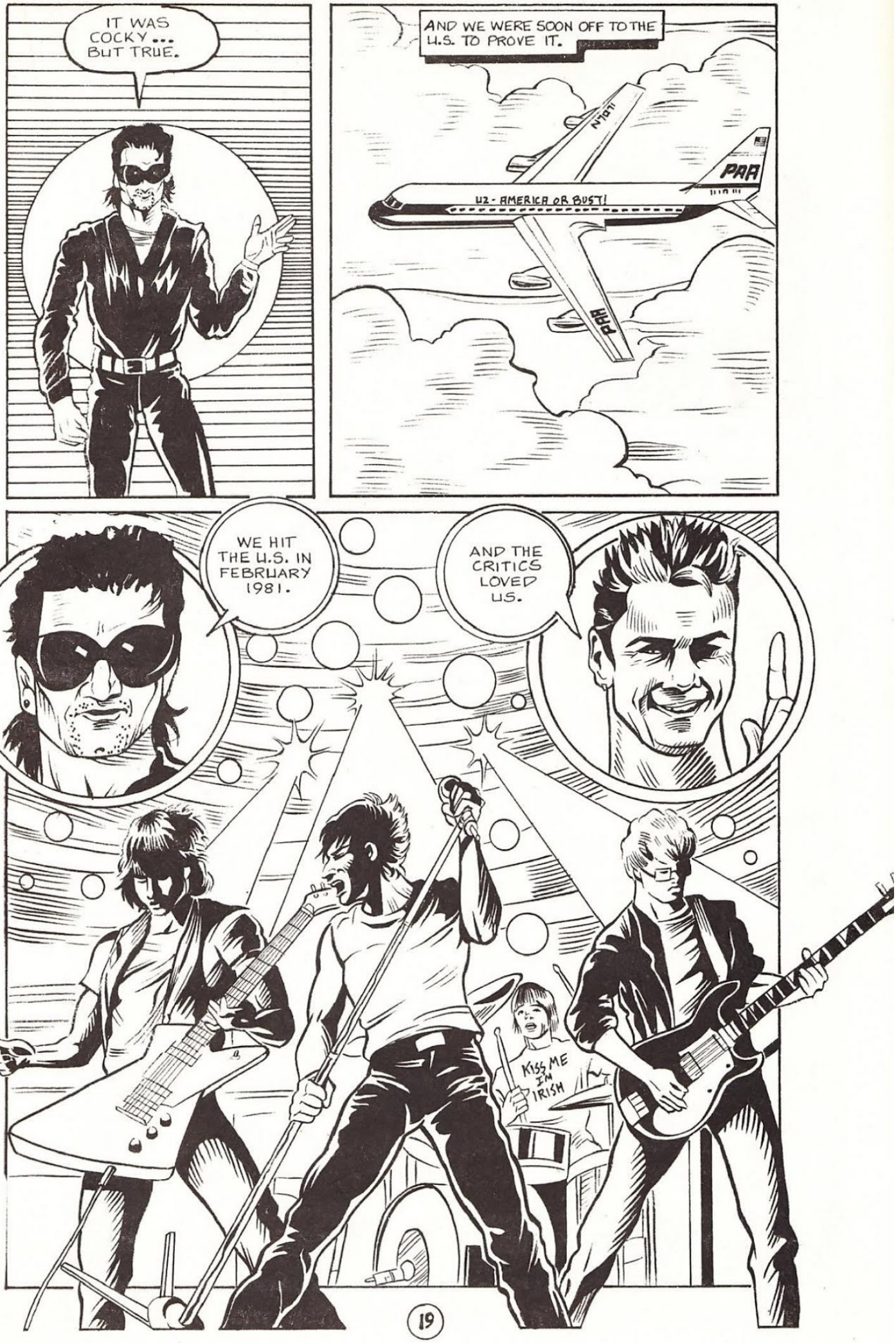

WE EVEN WROTE A SONG DECRYING CONFORMITY THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME OUR FIRST U.K. SINGLE.
U2
11 O'CLOCK TICK TOCK
2:35
ISLAND
SOMEWHAT HUMBLED BY OUR LACK OF SUCCESS IN THE U.K., WE RETURNED TO IRELAND AND PUT ON OUR OWN TOUR, ON OUR HOME TURF.
IREL
AND
DUBLIN
IT WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS.
WE EVEN BECAME THE FIRST UNSIGNED BAND TO PLAY DUBLIN STADIUM. 2,000 SEATS AND WE SOLD IT OUT!

WE WERE BACK ON A ROLL! A ROCKIN' ROLL!
AND EVERYBODY SPELLED OUR NAME RIGHT THIS TIME!
RE-ENERGIZED, WE TOURED THE U.K. AGAIN.
THIS TOUR WAS MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL AND WE GOT SIGNED BY ISLAND RECORDS IN EARLY 1980.
THEY HAD FINALLY WISED UP... AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO BE WORLDWIDE STARS!
ISLAND RECORDS CONTRACT
U2
BIG BUCKS
X X X X

BUT ITS NOT QUITE THAT SIMPLE, OF COURSE.
WHILE WE CONTINUED TO HAVE HUGE HITS IN IRELAND...
U2
I WILL FOLLOW
U2
11 O'CLOCK TICK TOCK
U2
A DAY WITHOUT ME
... NOBODY ELSE IN THE WORLD SEEMED TO WANT TO HEAR WHAT WE HAD TO SAY.
MUSIC PRESS
WORLD TO U2: THANKS BUT NO THANK
LITTER
BUT WE DIDN'T GIVE UP...
... PLUCKY LADS THAT WE WERE!

SO WE TOOK TO THE ROAD AGAIN.
WE OPENED FOR TALKING HEADS DURING THEIR LATE 1980 U.K. TOUR.
BUT OUR FIRST ALBUM, PRODUCED BY STEVE LILLYWHITE, STILL DIDN'T TAKE OFF RIGHT AWAY.
U2·BOY
NEVERTHELESS OUR CONFIDENCE KNEW NO BOUNDS.
I FEEL THAT WE ARE MEANT TO BE ONE OF THE GREAT GROUPS.
NOT TOO MODEST, HMM?

THERE'S A CERTAIN CHEMISTRY THAT WAS SPECIAL...
... ABOUT THE STONES...
... THE WHO...
.. AND THE BEATLES..
... AND I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING JUST AS SPECIAL...
... ABOUT U2.


IT WAS COCKY... BUT TRUE.
AND WE WERE SOON OFF TO THE U.S. TO PROVE IT.
U2 - AMERICA OR BUST!
PAA
WE HIT THE U.S. IN FEBRUARY 1981.
AND THE CRITICS LOVED US.
KISS ME I'M IRISH

WE DIDN'T EXACTLY HIT THE "TOP OF THE POPS.."
TOP 100 ALBUMS MARCH 1981
#62 "BOY": U2
... BUT WE DID MANAGE TO SELL OVER 200,000 COPIES OF "BOY"...
BOY
AND THEN WE BUILT ON THAT BASE...
... WITH 3 MONTHS OF KICK-ASS TOURING!
AND THE KIDS LOVED US, TOO!

FINALLY, IN THE SUMMER OF '81, "BOY" FINALLY BECAME SOMETHING OF A HIT IN THE U.K.
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, I SUPPOSE.

WE HEADED BACK TO THE U.K. TO TOUR AND MAKE ANOTHER RECORD.
WE CONQUERED AMERICA

U2 OCTOBER
THE NEXT ALBUM, "OCTOBER," WAS QUICKLY RECORDED IN LATE '81.

SOME BASTARD HAD NICKED MY BOOK OF LYRICS AND THAT SPURRED US ON TO GET THE ALBUM FINISHED QUICKLY.
SHIT.

IT SOLD POORLY IN BOTH THE U.S. AND THE U.K.
SNIFF

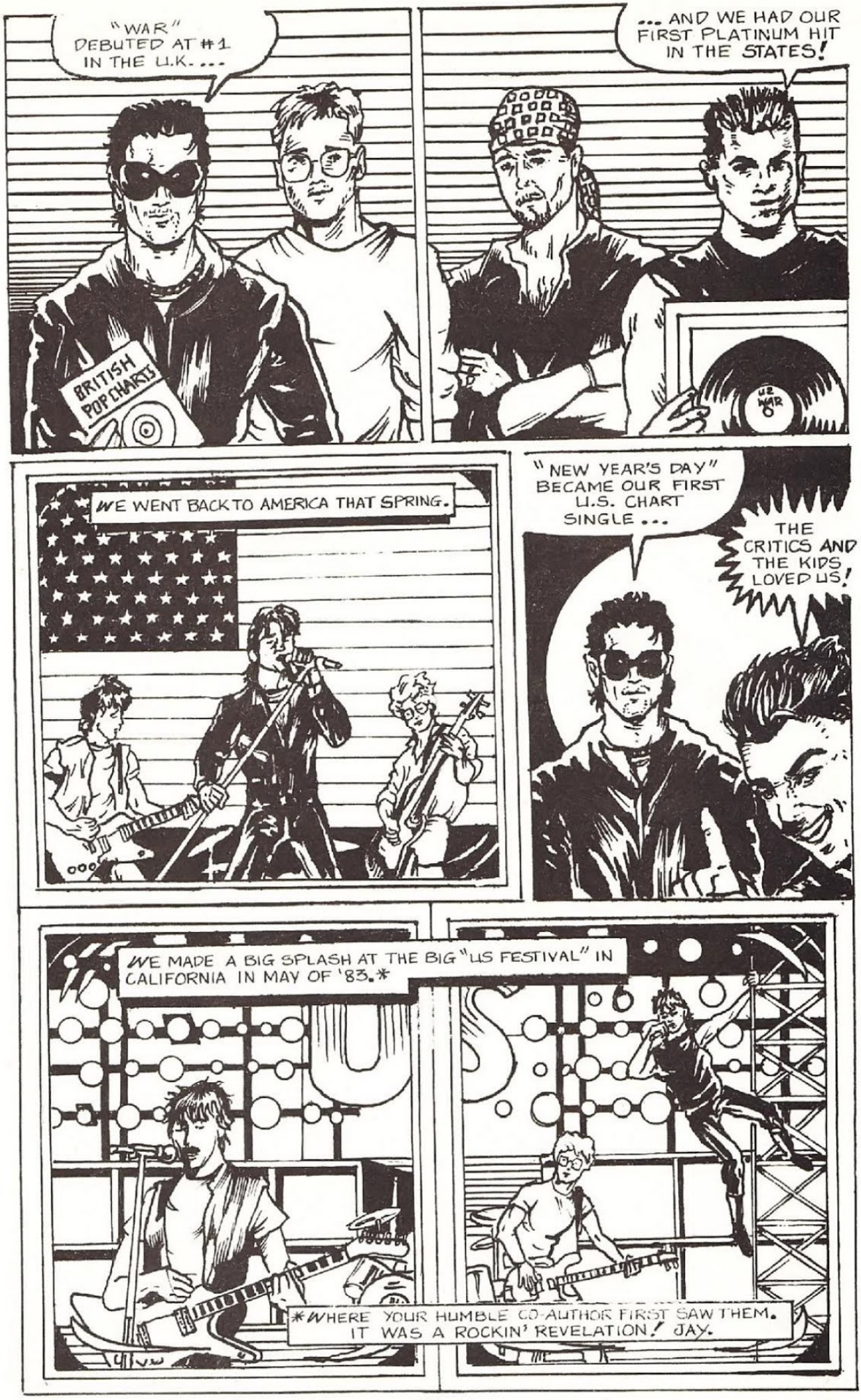
OUR MANAGER, PAUL, WAS EAGER TO CONSOLIDATE OUR INITIAL U.S. SUCCESS...
...SO HE MANAGED TO GET US OUR OWN FLOAT...
...IN THE GALA 1982 ST. PADDY'S DAY PARADE IN NEW YORK.
BUT WE BEGGED OFF WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT A MEMBER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY WAS TO BE HONORARY MARSHAL OF THE PARADE.
THE I.R.A. FOSTERS HATE INSTEAD OF PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE'RE ABOUT PEACE.

SO INSTEAD OF RIDING IN THE PARADE, WE SPENT ST. PATRICKS DAY TEARING UP THE STAGE AT THE RITZ IN NEW YORK.
THE
RITZ
BUT OUR EXPERIENCES WITH THE I.R.A. IN NEW YORK HAD CHANGED US.
THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND LED US TO WRITE "SUNDAY, BLOODY SUNDAY."
PROTESTANT
CATHOLIC
IT WAS, AND IS, A FIERCELY ANTI-VIOLENCE SONG.
AND IT IS A VERY SPECIAL SONG TO US BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE EVER REALLY MADE A STATEMENT.

FITTINGLY ENOUGH, WE DEBUTED THE SONG DURING A CONCERT IN BELFAST, THE CAPITAL OF NORTHERN IRELAND.
IT'S NOT A REBEL SONG. IT'S A SONG OF HOPE AND A SONG OF DISGUST...
... A CONDEMNATION OF THE BLOODY FOOLISHNESS OF VIOLENCE, ITSELF.
BELFAST
WE'RE GOING TO PLAY IT FOR YOU HERE IN BELFAST. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, LET US KNOW.
U2
THE WHO
"...THE REAL BATTLE JUST BEGUN... TO CLAIM THE VICTORY JESUS WON... ON A SUNDAY, BLOODY SUNDAY..."
THEY LIKED IT.

"SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY" WAS OUR FIRST REALLY POLITICAL SONG... AND, AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS ALSO A SHOWCASE FOR OUR CHRISTIANITY.
WE'RE NOT INTO "RELIGION," PER SE...
ALL RELIGION SEEMS TO DO IS DIVIDE...
WE'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN... AND INFLUENCED BY... THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF CHRISTIANITY.
IT'S A PERSONAL THING... IT SHOULDN'T BE AN ANGLE.
GOD NEEDS YOU TO SEND ME A MILLION DOLLARS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
THE GOD I WORSHIP ISN'T SHORT OF CASH, MISTER!

OUR MESSAGE, OF COURSE, IS IN THE MUSIC.
IN 1983, WE PUT OUR MUSIC WHERE OUR MOUTHS WERE WITH "WAR."
MUSIC'S POSSIBILITIES ARE GREAT.
U2
W
F
"WAR" WAS AN "IN-YOUR-FACE" ROCK 'N' ROLL RECORD THAT CHALLENGED LISTENERS TO THINK...
... ABOUT THEMSELVES...
...AND THEIR WORLD!


"WAR" DEBUTED AT #1 IN THE U.K. ...
BRITISH POP CHARTS
... AND WE HAD OUR FIRST PLATINUM HIT IN THE STATES!
U2 WAR
WE WENT BACK TO AMERICA THAT SPRING.
"NEW YEAR'S DAY" BECAME OUR FIRST U.S. CHART SINGLE ...
THE CRITICS AND THE KIDS LOVED US!
WE MADE A BIG SPLASH AT THE BIG "US FESTIVAL" IN CALIFORNIA IN MAY OF '83.*
*WHERE YOUR HUMBLE CO-AUTHOR FIRST SAW THEM. IT WAS A ROCKIN' REVELATION! JAY.

WE HAD DEFINITIVELY MOVED PAST "CULT" STATUS AND UP TOWARDS THE SO-CALLED "BIG LEAGUES" IN '83.
IT'S IN THE MUSIC THAT PEOPLE REALIZE THERE'S MORE THAN JUST GETTING UP IN THE MORNING, GOING TO WORK, COMING HOME AND GOING TO SLEEP AGAIN...
"... MUSIC EXPRESSES WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT MAN."
IN LATE '83, WE RELEASED "UNDER A BLOOD RED SKY," OUR FIRST LIVE RECORD. IT QUICKLY WENT GOLD.
AMERICA... AND THE REST OF THE WORLD... WAS TUNING INTO U2.

IT WAS A HEADY TIME FOR US.
"
BAND OF THE YEAR
IN EARLY 1984, "I WILL FOLLOW" MADE ITS BELATED CHART DEBUT IN THE STATES.
THOSE WACKY AMERICANS, YOU GOTTA LOVE 'EM!
WE EVEN STARTED HOBNOBBING WITH "LEGENDS."
WHEN BOB DYLAN CAME TO IRELAND IN '84, I GOT TO SING A COUPLE OF SONGS ONSTAGE WITH HIM...
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THE WORDS TO THE FIRST ONE!
HE JUST SORT OF MADE UP HIS OWN WORDS!

THE NEWSPAPERS HANGED ME FROM A TREE THE NEXT DAY... BUT IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER.
WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER AND WE KNEW IT.
WE HAD ACCOMPLISHED A LOT IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME...
U2 BOY
U2 OCTOBER
U2 WAR
U2 "UNDER A BLOOD RED SKY"
... BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
NEXT ISSUE: THROWIN' THEIR ARMS AROUND THE WORLD
30

Coming Next Month

REVOLUTIONARY COMICS INC.

ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS #55
U2 (2 of 2)
By Jay Allen Sanford and Mike Willis
Art by Dave Briggs
Cover by Scott Jackson

Those wild-eyed Irish Rovers in a completely up-to-date account. This issue takes us right through the massive, monolithic summer '92 "Zoo TV" tour. Featuring the unusual behind-the-scenes controversies, inclusive fact-finding and Revolutionary's trademark "pictorial journalism," this is the place to get the lowdown on rock's biggest (we didn't say best) band.

HARD ROCK COMICS #10
THE BIRTH OF PUNK & THE RAMONES
By Spike Steffenhagen
Art by Joe Paradise

A graphic chronicle of New York punk features four groups with three great chords: The Ramones, Blondie, Television, The New York Dolls, and lots of other leather and gem-clad masters of slob-rock!

THE LED ZED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE #4
Written by Spike Steffenhagen
Art by Marshall Ross
Cover by Scott Jackson

Forget *Hammer of the Gods* and all its attendant hogwash. This is one of the most thorough and accurate chronicle of the band that's ever been attempted. Relive all the decadence and all the delirium. Our fourth installment brings us to the brink of multiple disasters, as well as unparalleled platinum success.

STAR JAM COMICS #5
SHANNEN DOHERTY
Plus: MADONNA
By Hedges & Jahn
Art by Chas
Cover by Lyndal Ferguson

Continuing our 90210 profiles, this issue features Beverly Hills babe Brenda Walsh. Also, what has Madonna been up to since we covered her in *Rock 'N' Roll Comics*? What hasn't *she* uncovered? From *Dick Tracy* to *Erotica*, get the update in this, "one of the only true teen comics!"

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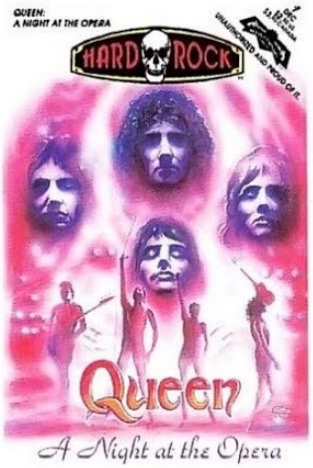
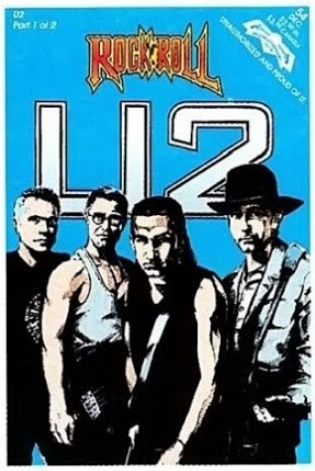
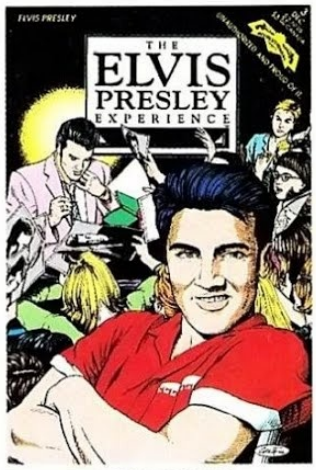


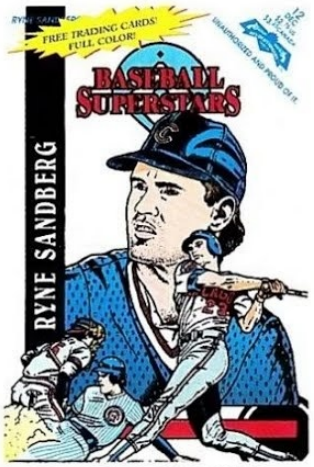
HARD ROCK COMICS 9
Queen - From the making of *A Night at the Opera*, to the founding of "The Royal Family," the band that became synonymous with pomp and bombast, thrills fans and frustrates critics! Steffenhagen/Rodolfo



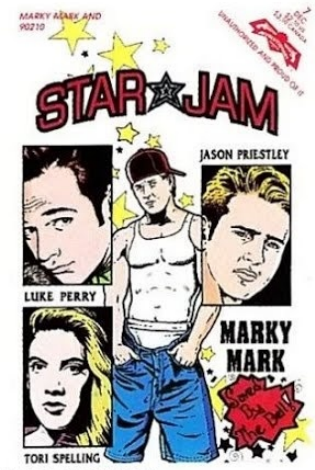
ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 54
U2 - The sizzling story of the year's hottest concert act. Part 1 covers the turbulent political, social & psychological climate of the Irish-Christian band's beginnings in battle-worn Belfast. Sanford/Pallot



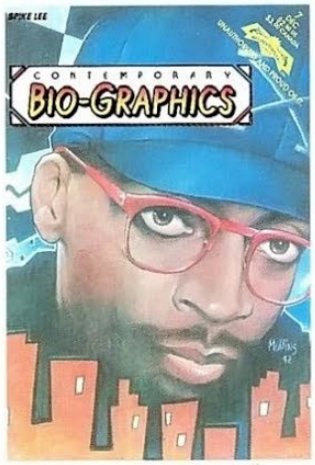
ELVIS PRESLEY EXPERIENCE 3
The King goes Hollywood, and conservative America is outraged when his Army induction is deferred! Shapiro/McCray/Sowd



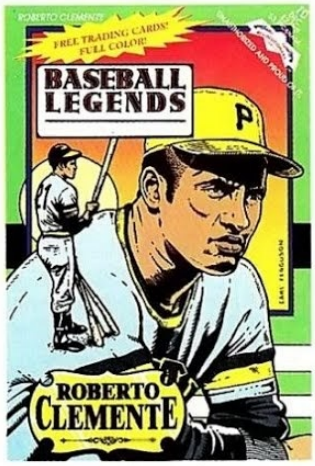
BASEBALL SUPERSTARS COMICS 12
Ryne Sandberg - Is he really worth $7 millions! Judge for yourself as one of Wrigley Field's most popular players takes to the field. Frink/Habermas



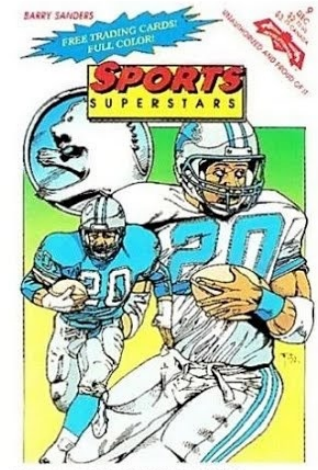
STAR JAM COMICS 7
Marky Mark and 90210 - The lowdown on the brash, buff, boxer-shorts babe, and the latest on Beverly Hills and its NBC clone, Saved by the Bell. Several creators.



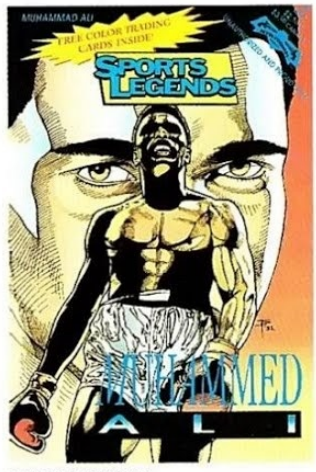
CONTEMPORARY BIO-GRAPHICS 7
Spike Lee - The famed movie director hits, misses, mixes controversy and money to push him to the forefront of today's black cinema. Willis/Escalmel



BASEBALL LEGENDS COMICS 10
Roberto Clemente - Ultimate four-time National League batting champion earning over 3000 hits with 12 Gold Gloves, the tragic tale of the Puerto Rican-born hero comes to life. Parrish/Bercasio



SPORTS SUPERSTARS COMICS 9
Barry Sanders - Perhaps the greatest running back in the NFL, the "Silver Streak" now races to break Eric Dickerson's season rushing record of 2,105 yards. Find out how it all began! Hess-Seymour/Pentzer



SPORTS LEGENDS 4
Muhammad Ali - A controversial man, an unbelievable athlete, and the greatest World Champion the world has ever known. From Louisville to Mecca, Liston to Frazier! de Bourbon/Blackwell

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